CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A portable computing device, comprising:

a user interface having a touch-sensitive display that detects contact between an input device and the display;

a processor; and

a memory that stores a data selection, wherein the processor detects a position of the input device when the input device is removed from the display and stores the data selection corresponding to the position in the memory.

2.   The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the input device is a stylus.

3.   The portable computing device of claim 1, wherein the user interface further comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of at least one directional button, a rotary switch, and a rocker arm.

4.   The portable computing device of claim 3, wherein the rotary switch is movable in both a rotary direction and in a linear direction.

5.   The portable computing device of claim 1, further comprising a data communication port for importing data to and exporting data from the memory.

6.   The portable computing device of claim 5, wherein the data communication port is at least one selected from the group consisting of a wireless data port and a wired data port.

7.   The portable computing device of claim 1, further comprising a portable computer aided design (CAD) program stored in the memory.

8.   The portable computing device of claim 7, wherein the portable CAD program complements a desktop CAD program on a personal computer such that data can be exchanged between the portable CAD program and the desktop CAD program.
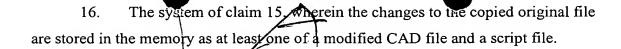
9.   The portable computing device of claim 8, wherein an original file prepared with the desktop CAD program is downloaded to the memory of the portable computing device for modification through the portable CAD program.

10.   The portable computing device of claim 9, wherein the original file is in a native format and the processor converts the original file from the native format to a portable format.

11.   The portable computing device of claim 9, wherein the processor records changes made to the original file in the portable computing device in a script file.

12.   The portable computing device of claim 7, wherein the portable CAD program comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of drawing tools, block tools, editing tools, and inquiry tools.

13.   A computer aided design (CAD) system, comprising:
a main computer that runs a desktop CAD program;
at least one portable computing device that runs a portable CAD program; and
a communication link between the main computer and the at least one portable computing device, wherein the portable CAD program and the desktop CAD program are complementary to allow data to be exchanged between the main computer and the portable computing device.

14.   The system of claim 13, wherein the portable CAD program comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of drawing tools, block tools, editing tools, and inquiry tools.

15.   The system of claim 13, wherein the portable computing device receives a copy of an original CAD file from the main computer, and wherein changes to the original file made through the portable computing device are stored in a memory in the portable computing device.

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16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the changes to the copied original file are stored in the memory as at least one of a modified CAD file and a script file.

17.   The system of claim 16, wherein the original CAD file is a native format and the at least one of the modified CAD file and the script file is in a portable format, and wherein the system further comprises a filter that converts the copied original CAD file from the native format to the portable format and converts at least one of the modified CAD file and the script file from the portable format to the native format.

18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the main computer plays the converted script file against the original CAD file in the main computer to generate a modified CAD file in the native format in the main computer.

19.   The system of claim 16, wherein the main computer plays the script file against the original CAD file in the main computer to generate a modified CAD file in the main computer.

20.   The system of claim 13, wherein the communication link is at least one selected from the group consisting of a wireless link and a wired link.

21.   The system of claim 13, wherein the portable computing device comprises:
        a user interface having a touch-sensitive display that detects contact between an input device and the display;
        a processor; and
        a memory that stores a data selection, wherein the processor detects a position of the input device when the input device is removed from the display and stores the data selection corresponding to the position in the memory.

22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the input device for the portable computing device is a stylus.

23.   The system of claim 21, wherein the user interface for the portable

computing device further comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of at least one directional button, a rotary switch, and a rocker arm.

24.   The system of claim 23, wherein the rotary switch on the portable computing device is movable in both a rotary direction and in a linear direction.

25.   A method for entering data on a portable computing device having a memory, a processor, and touch-sensitive screen, the method comprising:
detecting the placement of an input device on the screen; and
saving data corresponding to a position of the input device when the input device is lifted from the screen.

26.   The method of claim 25, further comprising:
detecting a position change of the input device before the input device is lifted from the screen, wherein the saving step saves data corresponding to the changed position.

27.   The method of claim 25, further comprising:
importing an original file from a main computer into a memory in the portable computing device;
detecting modifications of the original file made through the portable computing device; and
storing the modifications to the original file.

28.   The method of claim 27, wherein the portable computing device has a computer aided design (CAD) program stored in the memory.

29.   The method of claim 28, wherein the storing step stores the modifications as at least one of a modified CAD file and a script file.

30.   The method of claim 29, wherein the original file is an original CAD file in a native format and at least one of the modified CAD file and the script file is in a portable format, and wherein the method further comprises:
converting the original file from the importing step from the native format to

the portable format

converting the at least one of the modified CAD file and the script file from the portable format to the native format; and

loading the at least one of the modified CAD file and the script file to the main computer.

31.   The method of claim 28, further comprising:

generating at least one of a plurality of drawing tools, block tools, editing tools, and inquiry tools.

32.   The method of claim 31, wherein the tools include the step of automatically repositioning a drawing on the screen responsive to movement of the input device.

33.   The method of claim 31, further comprising:

generating a user interface for entering a base point and at least one of a distance and a direction relative to the base point.

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